

## United States Senate

April 23, 2010

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I write to urge you and our diplomatic corps in Israel to ensure that tensions between the U.S. and Israeli governments over the recent announcement of future housing construction in East Jerusalem do not derail Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations or harm relations between our two countries. In fact, I strongly believe that it is more important than ever for the Israelis and Palestinians to enter into serious negotiations over a final peace agreement.

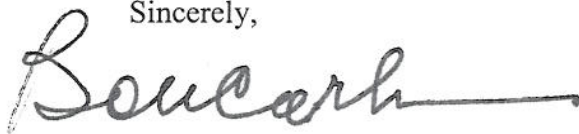
I also urge you, at every opportunity, to reaffirm the strong bonds that tie the United States and Israel together as allies. The Israeli and U.S. governments will, from time to time, disagree over policy decisions, but we should not allow those disagreements to adversely affect our mutual interests – including restarting the Middle East peace process and preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

From Israel's earliest days, The U.S. has appreciated the special relationship between our two nations. Israel has always been a consistent, reliable ally and friend and has helped to advance American interests. Similarly, by helping keep Israel strong, the U.S. has helped to reduce threats to Israel's security and advance the peace which successive Israeli governments have so avidly sought. It is the strength of our relationship that has made Arab-Israeli peace agreements possible. Steadfast American backing has helped lead to peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan.

As the Vice President said during his recent visit to Israel, "Progress occurs in the Middle East when everyone knows there is simply no space between the U.S. and Israel." I recognize that our two governments will not always agree on particular issues in the peace process, but such differences are best resolved amicably and in a manner that befits longstanding strategic allies. We must never forget the depth and breadth of our alliance and always do our utmost to reinforce a relationship that has benefited both nations for more than six decades.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,



BOB CORKER  
United States Senator